

Crossing Borders Bibliography

This bibliography contains select material from the CSAMES library that centers on the theme of crossing borders. These texts are available to loan from the library and could be used for a unit on crossing borders either geographically or through friendship.

Ashabranner, Brent. *Gavriel and Jemal: Two Boys of Jerusalem*. New York, NY: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1984.

This book for middle-grade readers is about Gavriel (an Israeli Jew) and Jemal (a Palestinian Arab) who live in Jerusalem. The daily life of each boy is illustrated with photographs depicting the Jewish and Arab neighborhoods of the old city. Although the boys never meet, there is hope that the new generation will solve the divisive conflict between Arabs and Jews.

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan*. Trans. Yael Lotan. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc., 2002.

This middle grades book for young adults focuses on a Palestinian boy, Samir, who lives in the West Bank and whose brother has been killed by Israeli soldiers. After a knee-shattering fall, Samir find himself in an Israeli hospital ward among the people he blames for his brother's death. The introspective narration reveals Samir's reactions, his interaction with the Israeli children in the ward, and his friendship with one of the boys. Despite his growing friendship and new understanding of the Israeli children, the Palestinian hardships under Israeli occupation are never far from his mind.

Cohen, Barbara. *The Secret Grove*. New York, NY: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1985.

An Israeli and Jordanian boy meet in an orange grove and make a secret pact. This elementary book teaches that hatred and racial stereotypes can be overcome.

Forman, James. *My Enemy, My Brother*. New York, NY: Hawthorn Books, 1969.

The story of Dan begins in a German concentration camp, relating the horror of his imprisonment and the difficult aftermath of his release following the end of the war. Three young Jewish survivors of a concentration camp make their way from Warsaw to an Israeli kibbutz only to be caught up in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Despite his friendship with an Arab family, whose village is ultimately destroyed by Zionist terrorists, Dan can only watch the inexorable march toward an outcome that means triumph for some and disaster for others. A thoughtful book best suited to older children.

Harris, Rosemary. *Zed*. Boston, MA: Faber and Faber, 1990.

This protagonist of this book for young adults is a Lebanese-American boy living in England. His mixed heritage, along with that of his extended family points out the variety of religious, ethnic, and national combinations in the Middle East. From the child perspective of Thomas/Zed, the reader tries to make sense of the

divisions between family members and the political tensions in the Middle East when the boy and his father are held prisoner by a group desiring Arab rights in the West.

Levine, Anna. *Running on Eggs*. Chicago, IL: Front Street/Cricket Books, 1999.

This young adult novel centers on an Israeli-Arab friendship between two girls on a track team in Israel. Sharing the same mountaintop, Karen lives in an Israeli kibbutz separate from Yasmine who lives in a Palestinian village. The war looms close by across the border in Lebanon. Karen's father has died some time ago in the Lebanese war and the family still copes with loss. Karen uses running to cope with her emotional pain. Meanwhile the track team is preparing for an important competition in Spain. Yasmine sadly learns she has to leave the track team because her coach will not allow her to run in a dress skirt. Yasmine secretly helps Karen train for the race, and the girls run together in the "no man's land" separating their communities. The loyalty between these two girls lies at the heart of this moving novel.

Matze, Claire Sidhom. *The Stars in My Geddoh's Sky*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1999.

This illustrated children's book is about a young boy named Alex who is visited by his Arabic-speaking grandfather in America. During his grandfather's stay, Alex learns about his relative's Middle Eastern homeland.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Habibi*. New York, NY: Simon Pulse, 1997.

Nye's young adult novel describes a Palestinian-American family's move from America to the West Bank. The young narrator, Liyana, is fascinated with her new observations of Palestinian village life. She describes the harsh treatment inflicted upon Palestinians as she learns about the language, the culture, and her new environment. Liyana's struggles continue when she makes friends with a Jewish boy. The novel asks the tough questions about Jewish-Palestinian relations.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *Sitti's Secrets*. New York, NY: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1997.

This beautifully illustrated picture book, chronicles young Mona's trip to Palestine from the United States to visit her Grandmother. Through Mona's visit the reader learns about life in Palestine and village activities. She comes to recognize the connection between people in all parts of the world regardless of barriers of language, nation, or time.

Shefelman, Janice. *A Peddler's Dream*. Austin, TX: Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

A Lebanese man travels to Austin, Texas in search of fortune. This is a picture book with a happy ending, as he eventually triumphs, making his dreams come true.